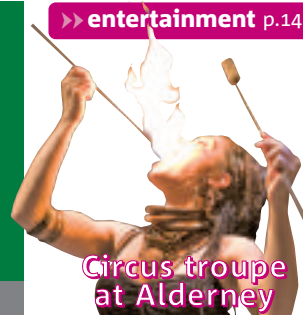




Dancevic delivers



Circus troupe at Alderney

metro

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

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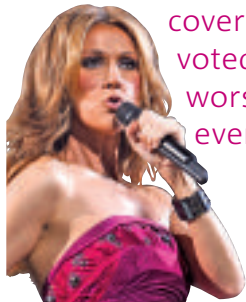
Halifax

» celeb buzz p.18

'sacrilege'

Celine's AC/DC

cover
voted
worst
ever



» local p.3

Tourists pouring
into city despite
expected slump

» world p.8

Hopes fade
for ferry
survivors



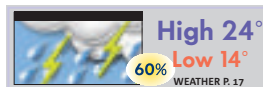
» yourmoney p.12



Easy ways
to lower
gas costs

» lifestyle p.13

Street
sale dos,
don'ts



RYAN TATLIN/FOR METRO HALIFAX

Halifax Rainmen owner Andre Levingston answers questions at a press conference after announcing the Rainmen will be joining the Premier Basketball League for the upcoming season. Levingston was hoping the Rainmen would be accepted into the NBA Developmental League for the 2008-09 season.

No NBDL for Rainmen

Team to join PBL
after D-League
bid falls short

By MATTHEW WUEST
Metro Halifax

The dream of joining the NBA Development League (NBDL) is over for the Halifax Rainmen. But they've found a home with some familiar faces in the Premier Basketball League.

The Rainmen announced yesterday they are joining the Vermont Frost Heaves, Manchester Millrats, Quebec Kebs and Montreal Sasquatch in the PBL, a league that formed in January and has

« *It's a great day for Halifax. ... We said there would be pro basketball in Halifax and that's exactly what we will have.* »

Rainmen owner Andre Levingston

swelled to 17 teams after one season.

All five squads played in the American Basketball Association in 2007-08 before dropping out in the spring.

"It's a great day for Halifax. ... We said there would be pro basketball in Halifax and that's exactly what we will have," Rainmen owner Andre Levingston said. "We should all embrace and be excited

about playing in the PBL."

Levingston is the first to admit the PBL was Plan B, as his sights were firmly set on the NBA Development League. In the end, Halifax's geographic location — almost 2,000 kilometres from the nearest team — did the Rainmen in.

Levingston said it's "in the D-League's hands" to resolve the geographic challenges facing the Rainmen by putting more teams in the northeast. Until then, the PBL is a permanent home, and the NBA D-League bid is all but forgotten.

"We made some friends (with the D-League brass). ... We might make a phone call every now and then to say hello but we're extremely excited to be in the PBL,"

he said. "We're looking forward to a long relationship."

The Rainmen will play a 20-game schedule in the PBL from January to March. They are also hoping to host pre-season showcase at the Metro Centre in the fall.

While the ABA was plagued with no-shows for scheduled games, the PBL played 100 per cent of its games last year.

"They know the importance of teams showing up on time and just doing business the right way," Levingston said.

—matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

more coverage

» For more on the Rainmen and the PBL, see p. 11.



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local



Get out the sunscreen. Lifeguards will begin staffing city beaches on Monday, June 30 for the summer. They'll be standing on guard between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. every day until Aug. 31. For more information, call the city's beach phone line at 490-5458, or visit www.halifax.ca/recreation/beaches.

METRO HALIFAX

Visitors flock to city

Hospitality servers surprised expected slump hasn't hit

By **ROBYN YOUNG**
Metro Halifax

Bracing for a slow season because of high fuel prices, business owners in the city have been shocked by the record numbers of visitors they've seen in May and June.

Marie Billard, owner of the South Park Garden Inn on South Park Street, said her business has shot up by about 40 per cent over last year during the same period.

"We're getting a lot of people from out west," she said.

Gary MacDonald, manager at the Five Fishermen in downtown Halifax, said the restaurant's numbers haven't changed in the past two years, even though they've been expecting a slump.

"Probably our international tourists and western tourists may stay away, but we're thinking that's going to be made up by the Maritime tourists," he said.

A spokeswoman with the Department of Tourism said they're still crunching numbers for the month of April and tourism stats from May and June will be a while coming.

"We're always kind of a month or so behind," said Tina Thibault.

She confirmed that visitors in March — the last month of recorded numbers — were down from last year and the department expected numbers to be about the same this summer.



Annette Bauer and Martin Pocher from Germany walk into Fresh Start Bed and Breakfast on Göttingen Street in Halifax. The couple was turned away because the B&B was too full.

"The National Tourism Association released a report not that long ago that because of gas prices and other factors affecting tourism that our numbers would be really bad this season," she said.

But so far, that's not the case.

"I'm booked solid for June ... it's a phenomenal year and they're coming from

everywhere," said the owner of Arbor Vista Bed and Breakfast in Dartmouth who didn't want her name published.

Jeff Ransome, general manager of the Harbourfront Marriott Hotel, said proprietors shouldn't get too excited about the increase in numbers.

"The problem is we're

thinking it's tourism," he said. "When you dig under that a little bit you find out it might be other reasons."

Business people and hockey fans, for example, have made their way to Halifax in droves over the last two months for conferences and of course, the world hockey championship, he said.

— robyn.young@metronews.ca

Plans wanted for Digby ferry

Residents ready to rally for solution

By **ROBYN YOUNG**
Metro Halifax

Southwestern Nova Scotians are "chomping at the bit" to let Nova Scotians know how devastating it would be to lose the Digby ferry.

Hal Theriault with the Digby Area Tourism Association said at a news conference yesterday the ferry is not only the area's main mode of transportation; it draws tourists from the rest of Canada and the United States.

Theriault and Liberal tourism critic Harold "Junior" Theriault sent packages to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Premier Rodney MacDonald, Central Nova MP Peter MacKay, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Murray Scott and Economic Development Minister Angus MacIsaac, including details about the importance of the ferry.

They said they'll wait for a month for a response.

Digby-Saint John

» In Jun. 2006, Bay Ferries which operates the ferry announced they could no longer afford to run the Digby-Saint John service.
» The federal government and provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick stepped in and contributed \$8 million to keep it running until Jan. 2009.

"Then we'll have to turn them loose," Hal Theriault said, referring to Digby residents who are set to rally and protest if a long-term plan isn't unveiled soon.

The tourism critic said the ferry needs long-term, stable funding and Premier Rodney MacDonald needs to take the lead to get it.

Tom Peck, director of communications with the Department of Economic Development, said yesterday the province will make a "positive" announcement about the Digby ferry in a matter of days or weeks.

He said it will be an interim solution while the province works out a long-term plan.

Entrepreneurs need support: Prof

By **PAUL MCLEOD**
Metro Halifax

small business

» Pelham was one of several speakers yesterday at the 2008 International Conference on Small Business hosted in Halifax.

Nova Scotia risks hurting its entrepreneur community by focusing too much on existing businesses, says an Acadia professor.

"My fear ... is that entrepreneur education is going to be wiped out," said Chris Pelham, executive director of the Acadia Centre for Social and Business Entrepreneurship.

Pelham said training and funding centre around helping existing business be competitive on a global scale.

"Which is great. I'm all for that. But it's a short-term, save-the-world-now kind of solution as opposed to developing a culture change that can move us forward," he said.

He said entrepreneurs help drive economies while keeping local character. He worries about a lack of balance between keeping local businesses going in the short term and building new ones in the long term.

"We want to maintain our cultural identity, our sense of community. But we need to move ourselves forward in a more enterprising way," Pelham told Metro Halifax.

He said fostering an entrepreneurial atmosphere will take government leadership and co-operation.

Height changes could affect harbour views

Heritage head wants public input on development

By **PAUL MCLEOD**
Metro Halifax

The head of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia wants a devel-

oper to go through the public before it changes height restrictions in Dartmouth.

W.M. Fares and Associates requested to raise height restrictions for its \$150-million commercial and institutional project at the site of the former Dartmouth Marine Slips.

Three buildings would vio-

late height restrictions put in place to protect views of Halifax Harbour from the Dartmouth Commons. Heritage Trust president Philip Pacey wrote a letter to Community Council calling for public consultation before any changes are made.

"A development at the Ma-

rine Slips is a reasonable thing, but the view planes in Dartmouth are important," said Pacey. "If there's a proposal to amend them it should be a full public process so all the residents in the area are given the opportunity to say something."

— paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

gunplay

Boy, 8, shot in leg with pellet gun

TEENS Police are investigating who shot an eight-year-old boy with a pellet gun Sunday in north-end Halifax. The boy was playing on Acadia Street when two teenage boys, between age 15 and 18, approached him and shot him in the leg.

METRO HALIFAX

vandalism

Suspects scratch racial slurs in cars

DARTMOUTH At least a dozen vehicle owners in Dartmouth woke up yesterday morning to see vulgar images and words, including some racial slurs, scratched into the sides of their cars. The incident happened just before 2 p.m. on Colonna Place near Ancona Place. Police describe the suspects as two white boys wearing dark hoodies.

METRO HALIFAX

New library on horizon?

Council to vote today on replacing downtown branch

By JENNIFER TAPLIN
Metro Halifax

A downtown library that doesn't leak or sprout mould could be on the way.

The council agenda this afternoon includes a vote on plans for the Central Library, which could replace the 57-year-old building on Spring Garden Road.

If council approves the plan in principle today, it means it is committing to build the new library on the empty lot on Spring Garden Road and Queen Street. The project, which nearly triples the size of the current library, is worth over \$42 million.

Halifax Downtown Coun. Dawn Sloane said many constituents are anxious for a new library and want to donate.

"People want to know where do I give for the li-



City council may approve, in principle, a plan to construct a new library to replace the aging Spring Garden Road branch. It would cost \$42 million for the new building.

by the numbers

CURRENT:	PROPOSED:
» 37 computers	» 335 computers
» seating for 124	» seating for 715
» 0 auditorium seats	» 250 auditorium seats
» 38,000 square feet	» 108,740 square feet

brary and right now I have to say you've got to wait."

If council approves the

plan, the library board can start fundraising.

"We're very excited about (the new building)," said Judith Hare, CEO of Halifax Regional Libraries.

"Spring Garden Road is a very difficult building to work in. Certainly it has its idiosyncrasies when it comes to heating and cooling so it's not comfortable or efficient to work in."

The new library would

have many more computers, seats and an auditorium. Sloane said it may look over the top, but it makes perfect sense.

"We're saying it's a lot right now but you wait in 15 years people will say, 'jeez, this library is small,'" she said. "It's like buying clothes for your kids a little bit bigger because they're going to grow into them."

-jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

crime

Victim escapes robbery attempt

BICYCLE Police are investigating an attempted robbery at Pleasant and Newcastles streets in Dartmouth late Sunday night. Four men approached a 19-year-old man at 11:40 p.m., threatened him with a shiny object and told him to turn over his bicycle. The victim refused and was able to get away.

The suspects are described as black men, about 15 years old and wearing long t-shirts.

METRO HALIFAX

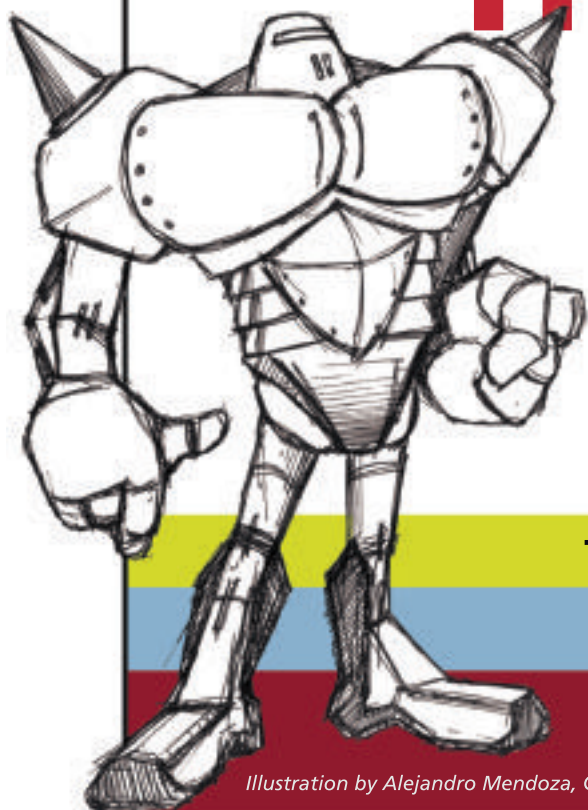
» news

In Brief

» **CFB** Navy Captain John Newton will take over command of Canadian Forces Base Halifax today at a ceremony at CFB Halifax' Wardroom at 11 a.m. Newton, a Halifax native, will become the 40th commander of Canada's largest military base when he takes over from former commander Capt. William Woodburn.

METRO HALIFAX

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Illustration by Alejandro Mendoza, Graduate 2006

Trying to recruit young employees? Skip the khakis and push the pay scale, according to a new survey by David Aplin Recruiting. Ninety-six per cent of twenty-somethings said they're looking for advancement opportunities, raises and performance bonuses.

METRO HALIFAX



A taste of the Mediterranean

European sea bass to be farmed in Windsor area

By JENNIFER TAPLIN
Metro Halifax

Thousands of Europeans will soon be finding homes in Nova Scotia.

Thanks to a couple of government loans, a fish farm near Windsor will be growing Mediterranean Sea bass on the menu in about a year.

Sustainable Fish Farming Canada will soon bring in hundreds of thousands of baby fish, said Kirk Havercroft. Restaurants and seafood lovers can have locally-grown Mediterranean Sea bass on the menu in about a year.

These new immigrants grow quickly, but require extra care since they're used to warmer waters.

"The water temperature in the farm will have to be between 20 and 22 degrees (Celsius) throughout the year," he said. "The conditions for European sea bass are warm, and very clear water of excellent quality."

So they'll have to be in tanks in-land with recirculated water instead of pens in the Atlantic Ocean. This is something that gets a nod of approval from the Ecology Action Centre.

Anna Magera said closed-containment aquaculture set-ups deal with some of the environmental issues with aquaculture farming.

fish farm facts

» The money: Jeremy Lee, the head of Sustainable Fish Farming Canada, contributed \$1 million.
Loans: N.S. Economic Development: \$750,000
ACOA: \$625,000
» The fish: Farm will produce about 80,000 kilograms per year to sell locally, nationally, and into the U.S. — that's about 100,000-150,000 fish every year.

Open-net pens can spread disease and release waste and nutrients into open waters.

"We've heard this new farm is taking steps to explore renewable energy options and we feel this is a very positive, and progressive step," she said.

Since they're building land-based tanks for the new species, the Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency asked the fish farm to try growing halibut too to see how they grow in that environment.

Havercroft said they wanted this particular fish to farm because it's a rising star in the aquaculture market in North America.

"I think we're catching this species on the rise in terms of popularity," he said. "And commercially, these fish grow very quickly and therefore we get a faster turnaround on capital."

-jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

Revitalizing an image

N.S. Gaming Corp. looks to improve public perception

By LINDSAY JONES
Metro Halifax

The agency that oversees gambling in Nova Scotia is revitalizing its image on the taxpayers' dime.

The Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation has put out a request for proposals asking firms to help it create a three-year strategy to tell people what it does.

"There has tended to be a lot of misconceptions about the industry and gaming in general," said Krista Grant, corporation spokeswoman. "We're hoping that this strategy will help us get our message out to Nova Scotians so that they understand what

« Nova Scotia spends more on prevention and responsible gaming programming than all of the U.S. combined. »

Gaming Corporation spokeswoman Krista Grant

we offer."

She said the profits made from Nova Scotia's 2,234 video lottery machines, two casinos in Halifax and Sydney, and lottery tickets provided about \$162 million to the government in 2006-07. That money went towards building better roads, running schools and hospitals, and helping those addicted to gambling.

Grant said the corporation spent \$7.8 million in 2006-07 on prevention education and treating gambling addicts.

She didn't know how much the strategy will cost because that's part of the proposals.

Terry Fulmer, a member of

the group that wants VLTs banned in Nova Scotia, says the rebranding strategy is to create "propaganda."

"It's just another method to remove them from their wicked product," Fulmer said.

He said any agency that makes money from VLTs, which account for 75 per cent of the corporation's profits, should be ashamed.

"They spend more money trying to tell Nova Scotians that they gamble responsibly than they do treating Nova Scotians," Fulmer added.

He said it's unacceptable that addicted gamblers who ask for help are told to wait

four to six weeks.

Grant said the corporation is a world leader in responsible gambling.

"Nova Scotia spends more on prevention and responsible gaming programming than all of the U.S. combined," Grant said. "We take that very seriously."

-lindsay.jones@metronews.ca

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Prom Public Gardens photo shoot



Grade 12 Auburn Drive High students, from left, Amanda McMullin, Stefanie King, Laura Westhaver, Emily Mallett, Krystal Hopkins make their way to the gazebo in the Public Gardens to get their pictures taken for their prom and safe grad.

LINDSAY JONES/METRO HALIFAX



keep an Ace up your sleeve.

Subpoenas served

Premier, ministers face heat over immigrant program

By ROBYN YOUNG
Metro Halifax

Premier Rodney MacDonald and eight cabinet ministers were served with subpoenas yesterday demanding that a lengthy list of documents related to a controversial immigration program be released.

The public accounts committee of the legislature issued the subpoenas asking that the documents that were withheld from Auditor General Jacques Lapointe during an investigation of the troubled nominee program, be provided by Jul. 23.

Maureen MacDonald, chair of the public accounts committee, said in her 10 years in the legislature, she can't remember a time a committee went to the House of Assembly with respect to

also subpoenaed

» In addition to the premier, subpoenas were issued to the following ministers: Community Services Minister Judy Stretch; Education Minister Karen Casey; Economic Development Minister Angus MacIsaac; Transportation Minister Murray Scott; Immigration Minister Len Goucher; Municipal Relations and Service Nova Scotia Minister Jamie Muir; former Immigration Minister Carolyn Bolivar-Getson; and Justice Minister Cecil Clarke.

the auditor general being denied information.

"It's unprecedented that the auditor general be refused access to the information that he requires to do a thorough audit," she said.

And what if the government doesn't comply?

"We will take it one step at a time," MacDonald said.

The next step would be to inform the House that the warrants weren't followed

and then the House has the power to make decisions around penalties, she said.

On Jun. 12, the auditor general tabled a scathing report on the provincial nominee program's economic stream saying newcomers who paid \$130,500 to participate in a mentorship at a local business weren't properly trained, weren't paid, or, in some cases, were mistreated.

Lapointe revealed that during the audit of the program, he was denied access to a number of documents.

"It was made plain to us – with a blanket decision – not to provide us with some documents," he explained during a public accounts hearing of the legislature.

The premier's spokesman yesterday said the subpoenas will be reviewed by the Department of Justice.

"We will deal with them in accordance with the advice from our lawyers," said Wade Keller in an e-mail.

– robyn.young@metronews.ca

Birch Cove Beach Duck day afternoon



A mother duck and her brood paddle by swimmers at Birch Cove beach in Dartmouth on Sunday. The family swam fairly close to shore to the delight of the people on the busy beach.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Tourist's missing bike returns

The missing bicycle belonging to Vermont tourist Bob Viens has reappeared.

The bike was discovered by an Amherst resident out walking Saturday morning. It was found in the middle of a front yard, just a block away from where it went missing.

"When I first arrived here

in Amherst, after having my bike stolen, I admit I wasn't seeing this town in a very positive light," said Viens. "After all the support I've received ... that has definitely changed."

The bike was found in near perfect condition, but stripped of all its equipment.

After the story broke about

the stolen bicycle, Viens received overwhelming support from people of Amherst.

On Thursday, Viens ordered a new bicycle identical to the stolen one. Viens now says he will auction it off and donate the proceeds to a local cause.

THE AMHERST DAILY NEWS

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A debate over unleashed dog rights in a Toronto neighbourhood could be connected to the poisoning of at least six animals over the weekend, said a Toronto police investigator yesterday. Six dogs fell ill after drinking from a hydrant that had traces of anti-freeze. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Harper cabinet shuffle expected soon

Emerson likely to take on foreign affairs full-time

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says his upcoming cabinet shuffle, expected any day now that Parliament has broken for the summer, will be a minor tweak to the ministerial ranks to fill the gap left by Maxime Bernier's departure as foreign affairs minister.

Harper asked International Trade Minister David Emerson to step into the foreign affairs post temporarily when Bernier resigned last month after leaving classified documents at the home of ex-girlfriend Julie Couillard.

Emerson will attend the G-8 foreign ministers' meetings in Japan this week and many expect him to be asked to continue in the role, although he and Harper have different



senior shuffle coming

» Some insiders say the prime minister has suggested a larger shuffle could come in the fall if there is no election. In the meantime, it's expected at least 20 per cent of senior ministerial aides could be shuffled out.

views of how to approach China.

Emerson's cool handling of questions around NAFTA — when it became a political hot potato in the U.S. — and around the Afghanistan

prison break is said to have impressed Harper.

That scenario would see the Prime Minister likely shift a junior minister or parliamentary secretary such as Diane Ablonczy, Ted Menzies

or Christian Paradis into the international trade job, at least until a more major shuffle, possibly in the fall.

"I believe that most of our ministers are just beginning to hit their stride in their portfolios," Harper said last week in Huntsville.

"I don't believe this would be the time for major changes to cabinet," Harper told reporters. "I see no need for a comprehensive overhaul

now."

While some have suggested Finance Minister Jim Flaherty might be pegged for a move given his inflammatory comments on Ontario's economic prospects under the McGuinty government, many inside government say Harper is unlikely to do anything that would send a broader signal about uncertainty over the economy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

First Canadian terror trial begins

Khawaja facing life in prison for his alleged role in plot

By **TRACEY TONG**
Metro Ottawa

An Ottawa man was responsible for designing and creating a remote-controlled bomb detonator as part of a plot to attack populated areas of the United Kingdom, a downtown courtroom heard yesterday.

Mohammad Momin Khawaja, 29, created the device he called the "Hi-Fi Digi-monster" as his part of a U.K. bomb plot, prosecutor David McKercher charged yesterday during opening statements into one of the highest profile cases in Ottawa's history.

Citing intercepted e-mails and wiretapped conversations, McKercher described how Khawaja, a software developer who outwardly lived a middle-class life in Orleans, held extremist views and was



Azra Khawaja, left, and Mahboob Khawaja, the parents of Mohammad Momin Khawaja, leave the Ottawa courthouse yesterday during a break in their son's terror trial.

prepared to participate in killing civilians.

The court will hear evidence that Khawaja was part of a plan to build and detonate a bomb made from 600 kilograms of ammonium nitrate-based fertilizer "that could

cause massive destruction," said McKercher.

The first Canadian to be charged under a post-9/11 anti-terrorism law, Khawaja faces seven terror-related charges.

If convicted, he faces life in

prison.

He pleaded not guilty to all counts.

Khawaja was arrested in March 2004 at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, where he worked.

Edmonton woman finds live grenade

Police determine device belongs to Canadian military

The Canadian military and police are investigating after a package containing a brand new hand grenade, belonging to the army, was found in a suburban backyard in Edmonton, police said yesterday.

The Edmonton woman discovered the suspicious package on Sunday and took it to her local police station, where officers told her to carefully place it on the

lawn.

Police called in the bomb squad, which determined the item was a grenade, still in its packaging and belonging to the Canadian military.

The technicians made sure the package was secure and called military personnel in to dispose of the ordnance.

"It is quite unusual for someone to find a grenade in their backyard, especially one that hasn't been spent," Edmonton police spokeswoman Patrycia Chalupczynska said.

REUTERS

» news In Brief

» **BERNARDO** The Ontario Crown has conceded a 40-year-old London, Ont. roofer should be exonerated of a 1987 knife-point assault on a 15-year-old Scarborough girl, which serial killer Paul Bernardo has confessed to committing.

» **TASER** An Ontario man died yesterday after being Tasered by the Ontario Provincial Police, the force said in a press release. The incident occurred in Norfolk County, about 130 km southwest of Toronto.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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world



In a study of more than three million adults, scientists in Texas found that hospital patients who abused amphetamines were 61 per cent more likely than other people to be treated for a heart attack.

REUTERS

Hope fades in search for ferry survivors

Many passengers feared trapped

Rescuers halted efforts last night to find nearly 800 people missing from a capsized ferry in the Philippines as darkness fell and large swells prevented divers from drilling holes into the doomed vessel.

Many passengers were feared trapped inside the Princess of Stars after a handful of survivors said people were still onboard when the ship sank off the central island of Sibuyan in waves as big as houses during Saturday's typhoon.

But officials held little hope of finding people alive in air-pockets on the ferry.

"We feel there is no life inside," said Lt.-Col. Edgard Arevalo, a Philippine navy spokesman.

The ship was resting upside down with the tip of its bow

over 50 found alive

» So far, more than 50 people have been found alive and at least 20 have been reported dead out of 864 passengers and crew on board.

above water and its stern resting on the bottom of the sea, easily visible from shore.

The coast guard said divers would cut open the 23,824-tonne vessel today after rescue efforts were halted.

At least 20 new survivors and 15 bodies were found at least 70 kilometres away from where the ship sank.

"We are still working on the positive identification of the survivors as well as the fatalities," Capt. Gilbert Rueros said.

The U.S. is sending a military ship to aid in rescue efforts.

REUTERS



VIC KINTANA/REUTERS

Betty Suson holds out a photo of her daughter Marites Suson yesterday next to a notice board where pictures of missing passengers of the capsized ferry are being posted.

Fair vote 'impossible'

UN condemns Zimbabwe poll amid violence

The UN Security Council declared yesterday that a free and fair run-off presidential election in Zimbabwe would be impossible now due to violence and restrictions on the opposition.

The nonbinding statement, the council's first formal action on Zimbabwe, was adopted unanimously. This means it had the backing of South Africa, China and Russia, which had long opposed any council discussion of the crisis in Zimbabwe.

"The Security Council regrets that the campaign of violence and the restrictions on

the political opposition have made it impossible for a free and fair election to take place on June 27," the statement said.

But Zimbabwe's UN envoy said the vote would go ahead. "As far as we are concerned, the election will take place on Friday," Boniface Chidyausiku said.

The Security Council text was watered down from an earlier version, which explicitly blamed President Robert Mugabe's government for the crisis and said opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai would be the legitimate leader if a credible run-off election cannot be held. Tsvangirai sought refuge at the Dutch Embassy on Sunday.

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U.S. troops kill 55 Taliban in ambush

Eastern front sees rise in violence

U.S.-led coalition troops killed some 55 Taliban insurgents who ambushed them in south-eastern Afghanistan, close to the Pakistan border, the U.S. military said yesterday.

There has been a sharp rise in violence along Afghanistan's eastern frontier in recent months. NATO generals say de facto ceasefires between Pakistan's new government and militants in its border region free up insurgents to infiltrate into Afghanistan.

Pakistan set back

» Pakistani militants loyal to Taliban commander Baitullah Mehsud captured a town at the entrance to the South Waziristan tribal region yesterday after a battle with pro-government tribesmen, police said.

Taliban insurgents ambushed the coalition forces with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades in the Zerok district of Paktika province on Friday, a U.S. military statement said.

REUTERS

»news In Brief

» **CHINA** Floods, landslides and hail in the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan have killed 35 people. The storms have affected about 1.9 million people and caused losses of some \$85 million in the province.

» **CAMP** International donors offered \$120 million on Monday to help rebuild a Palestinian refugee camp badly damaged in fighting between Islamist militants and the

Lebanese army last year.

» **HOLY LAND** Thou shalt not harm the environment during thy vacation. The Vatican sent out this message to vacationers – in effect – issuing advice to help tourists offset environmental damage. "One can choose to be a tourist at odds with the Earth or in favour of it," said the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People.

REUTERS

business

Dollar		Oil	
↑ 0.11¢	C\$ 98.44¢/US	↑ \$136.74/US	\$1.38
	U.S.\$ \$1.0158		

Canadian biotechnology firm Microbix Biosystems plans to build and operate a new influenza vaccine plant in China, which will be one of the largest facilities in the world.

REUTERS

google

Android devices delayed: Report

PHONES Mobile phones under development by Google Inc. and its partners face a delay, the Wall Street Journal reported yesterday.

Last November, Google introduced its highly anticipated Android software system for designing mobile phone devices, in a move it promised could help the cellphone industry make the Internet work as smoothly on phones as it does on computers.

REUTERS

» news

In Brief

» **OILSANDS** Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum Corp. said yesterday it is buying a 15 per cent stake in the multibillion-dollar Joslyn oil sands project in northern Alberta from Enerplus Resources Fund for \$500 million. The move marks Occidental's re-entry into Canada, after selling its stake in Nexen Inc. in 2000.

» **BOUGHT** A division of Magna International Inc. has bought the exterior business of bankrupt Plastech Engineered Products. A bankruptcy court judge in Detroit approved the sale of the Plastech operations late last week to Magna's Decoma International for \$24.7 million U.S. Plastech gained court protection in February but failed in its reorganizing efforts and is now liquidating assets.

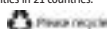
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Metro Halifax
3260 Barrington St., Suite 102
Halifax, NS B3K 0B5
main: 902-444-4444
fax: 902-422-5610
sales: adinfohalifax@metronews.ca
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Metro is the world's largest international newspaper, with more than 18.5 million daily readers in 100 major cities in 21 countries.



EU reforms Setback to treaty



London-based group Open Europe displays a banner outside the European Commission headquarters in Brussels. EU leaders must press ahead with ambitious policies on climate change and energy to counter surging oil prices and help overcome the political setback of Ireland's "No" to the EU reform treaty, the European Commission chief said.

THE IRISH ROOF/REUTERS

Credit unions' merger on track

\$8B in assets for combined entity

Years in the making and temporarily thwarted by the commercial paper crisis, the long-anticipated merger between Credit Union Central

of Ontario and Credit Union Central of British Columbia is finally set to close July 1.

With \$8 billion in assets, the combined entity will be known as Central 1. It will act as an umbrella organization for about 195 member

credit unions in both provinces, providing them with a slew of payment, treasury, banking and trade services.

Legislative delays scuttled a previously planned merger.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Oil rises as supply worries outweigh Saudi boost

Oil rose \$1.38 to \$136.74 yesterday as Nigerian supply disruptions and escalating tensions between Israel and Iran outweighed Saudi Arabia's pledge to raise output and keep markets supplied.

Nigeria's senior oil workers union began a limited strike at Chevron yesterday. While the stoppage has not disrupted production yet, it added to concerns about supplies from the OPEC nation.

speculators

» The head of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission said yesterday the agency will provide Congress with a report by mid-September on the role commodity index funds have played in the run-up of energy prices.

Meanwhile, the European Union approved new sanctions on Iran.

REUTERS

Banks want concessions

All options on table in BCE deal, sources say

background

» BCE won a legal victory Friday after the Supreme Court of Canada backed the company in a battle against a group of bondholders, but negotiations continue between the banks, the buyers and BCE on the terms of the funding, sources said.

Banks funding the planned \$34.1 billion takeover of telecommunications company BCE Inc. have asked for more significant economic concessions and have weighed altering or scuttling the deal, sources familiar with the situation said yesterday.

The concessions include adding safeguards to the debt agreements, or seeking more lucrative terms on lending.

The banks — Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland Group and Toronto-Dominion Bank — also have actively considered walking away from the deal, the sources said.

'All options are on the table. Everything you would normally consider is being considered — sticking with

the deal, changing the terms, or walking away. It's all still very much up for discussion," said one source who declined to be named.

Shares of BCE hit a high of \$38.12 yesterday, but closed at \$36.58 on the Toronto Stock Exchange as investors weighed the news of the Supreme Court decision against the risk of renegotiated terms. The stock trades below the \$42.75 per share offer by the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and its U.S.-based private-equity partners.

REUTERS

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sports



Washington Nationals first baseman Nick Johnson, left, will undergo surgery today to determine the extent of his right wrist injury. Johnson missed the entire 2007 season after recovering from a broken leg. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dempster carries Cubs

The Cubs are all the rage in Chicago these days — actually, throughout baseball — as they rank as MLB's top team and threaten to end their 100-year drought as World Series champions.

They wouldn't be in this lofty position, however, were it not for a Canadian pitcher. Baseball buffs, in fact, are starting to tout **Ryan Dempster** — of Gibsons, B.C. — as the logical choice to start for the NL in the All-Star

Game at Yankee Stadium in three weeks.

"Ryan's definitely got the numbers," Cubs manager Lou Piniella told me via telephone yesterday. "If I had to pick one player who's most responsible for what we've done in the first half this season, it might just be Ryan. He's quite a story."

That's a considerably different tune than Piniella was whistling about Dempster last season, when the right-hander struggled lamentably in the role of closer for the Cubs. He finished 2007 with a record of 2-7 and an earned-run average of 4.73, which wasn't really



YORK REPORT
MARTY YORK
marty.york@metronews.ca

much better than the 1-9 and 4.80 he posted as a Chicago reliever in 2006.

After the stench he created out of the Cubs' bullpen, how-

ever, Dempster was transformed this season into a starter by Piniella, and the results have been, well, deodorizing.

At 31, Dempster is 9-2, with a 2.63 ERA. He is perfect this year at Chicago's Wrigley Field (9-0), where the Cubs have won 14 consecutive games — their longest winning streak since 1936. The team is 12-3 in games Dempster has started. On Sunday night, he turned in a gem in a victory over the crosstown rival White Sox at a Wrigley Field sellout. Standing ovations were directed at him twice during the internationally televised game.

Translation: Dempster is

a shoo-in as MLB's comeback player of the year.

"It's like I'm a different person," he said in an interview. "I'm giving all the credit to (Cubs clubhouse attendant) Otis Hellman. He's a great cook. It really gets you prepared. I'm trying now to see if I can get him cooking for us on the road."

In reality, Dempster's conditioning has been considerably more responsible for his revival than Hellman's culinary talents.

"You throw a lot more innings as a starter than you do as a closer," Dempster said, "so I realized before the season that I'd better get my body in better shape. I've been working out like crazy, like I never have before, and I know I'm stronger because of it. I'm a lot more confident. I'm thinking big, and I'm performing a lot better and I'm getting great results."

Just like the Cubs.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.



Canada's Frank Dancevic reacts after his first-round win over Argentina's David Nalbandian yesterday at Wimbledon. Dancevic, ranked 95th in the world, won in straight sets.

Dancevic delivers Wimbledon upset

Canadian ousts No. 7 Nalbandian

Former finalist David Nalbandian became the highest men's seed to perish in the opening round at Wimbledon yesterday, beaten 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 by Canada's Frank Dancevic.

The seventh-seeded Argentine, runner-up in 2002, looked completely out of sorts, bamboozled by winners flying off Dancevic's racket.

The 95th-ranked Dancevic, a native of Niagara Falls, Ont., put Nalbandian out of misery with a booming ace, his 16th of the match.

The defeat condemned the Argentine to his earliest exit from the All England Club.

"I expected better than this

for sure," said a sullen Nalbandian, who hinted he was carrying an injury but refused to elaborate.

Dancevic will next face American Bobby Reynolds as he bids to reach the third round of a grand slam for the first time.

In yesterday's other action, world No. 1 Roger Federer began his pursuit of a modern-era record sixth successive Wimbledon title by dismantling his old doubles partner Dominik Hrbaty 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

On a good day for grand slam champions, Federer was joined in round two by Novak Djokovic, Lleyton Hewitt, Marat Safin, Serena Williams, Ana Ivanovic, Amelie Mauresmo and Svetlana Kuznetsova.

REUTERS

O'REGAN'S GREEN LIGHT USED CAR CENTRE NOW OPEN



»sports In Brief

» **NHL** The Ray Emery era in Ottawa is officially over. The Senators bought out the remaining two years of the maligned goaltender's contract yesterday for \$2.25 million US, thus making him an unrestricted free agent. Emery, 25, went 12-13-4 with a 3.13 GAA and a .890 save percentage in 31 games this past season.



Emery

» **MLB** The news was mostly good for Toronto Blue Jays right-hander Shaun Marcum yesterday. Marcum was examined by Dr. James Andrews yesterday and the famed orthopedist agreed with the club's diagnosis of strained ligaments in the right forearm and elbow that will not require surgery. Marcum was placed on the DL on Saturday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

<p>2008 Camry LE was \$25,990 Power Group, 4DR, A/C</p> <p>NOW \$23,990</p>	<p>2005 Canyon 4x4 Ex Cab was \$20,990 SSP, A/C, Alloys</p> <p>NOW \$19,990</p>	<p>2007 Yaris Sedan was \$18,490 Power Group, Auto Transmission, A/C</p> <p>NOW \$16,990</p>	<p>2005 Corolla CE was \$13,990 4DR, SSP, CD, 1 Owner</p> <p>NOW \$12,990</p>	<p>2003 Hyundai Santa Fe was \$13,990 Power Group, Auto Transmission, A/C, 1 Owner</p> <p>NOW \$12,990</p>
<p>2004 Element was \$17,999 2DR, Auto Transmission, Power Group, A/C, Alloys</p> <p>NOW \$16,990</p>	<p>2007 Volkswagen GTI was \$25,990 2DR, 6SP, Black, A/C, Power Group, Alloys</p> <p>NOW \$24,990</p>	<p>2006 Saturn Ion was \$14,990 2DR Coupe, SSP, A/C, 39,000km</p> <p>NOW \$13,990</p>	<p>2004 Impala was \$12,990 4DR, Power Group, Auto Transmission, A/C, 1 Owner</p> <p>NOW \$11,990</p>	<p>2007 Pontiac Grand Prix was \$13,990 Power Group, Auto Transmission, A/C, Cruise C</p> <p>NOW \$12,990</p>

Cape Breton Screaming Eagles standout Jordan Clendenning, right, has committed to reigning Atlantic University Sport champion New Brunswick Varsity Reds. The 21-year-old forward had 76 points in 60 games last season. **METRO HALIFAX**



Rainmen undergoing revamp

League change comes with plenty of new faces

By **MATTHEW WUEST**
Metro Halifax

The face of the Halifax Rainmen's inaugural season has left for Finland, and it may be a sign of things to come.

Rainmen all-star forward Eric Crookshank signed to play pro ball in Europe this week, and owner Andre Levingston said more roster changes could be in on the way shortly.

The only returning player he confirmed as a high-priority to sign is swingman Brian Silverhorn, who earned an invite to a Toronto Raptors' free-agent camp on the weekend.

"We had some very talented guys from last year, but we saw some areas we need to be

better at — on the defensive end," Levingston said. "It was an offensive league, but I'm a defensive guy, and we didn't play defence the way I'd like."

The Rainmen announced yesterday they are joining the Premier Basketball League, which boasts a more defensive style than the wide-open American Basketball Association.

Levingston said he wants to recruit more players from the NCAA Division I ranks, a tactic that helped the Vermont Frost Heaves win back-to-back ABA championships.

"We're going to look for higher quality players," he said. "You have two quality leagues to play basketball in North America — the D-League and the PBL. We have a pool of players we can look at and sign and get the fans excited about."

If things don't work out for



High-flying Eric Crookshank has signed to play in Europe and he likely won't return to the Halifax Rainmen next season.

Crookshank in Finland, Levingston said the team would welcome him back.

Silverhorn, who averaged

18.2 points-per-game last season and had a .394 three-point field-goal percentage, has spent the past month training

heavily in the Chicago area.

"Brian Silverhorn is definitely a kid who we feel can play at the next level with more improvement," Levingston said. "We would definitely like to keep him on our team."

» The PBL offers a traditional style of basketball, without the gimmicky 3-D rule and 13th man from the ABA.

» Levingston reiterated that head coach Rick Lewis will be back with the Rainmen for the 2009 season.

» Levingston is hoping to play more home games in the PBL on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Last year, the Rainmen played weekday ABA games on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

» Rainmen 7-foot-3 post James Tyler was with Silverhorn as a tryout at the Raptors' camp on the weekend.

Mooseheads deal useless draft choice to Wildcats

The Halifax Mooseheads have traded their top pick in the Canadian Hockey League European import draft to the Moncton Wildcats for a sixth-rounder in the 2009 QMJHL draft.

The Mooseheads had no use for the import pick with Czech forwards Jakub Voracek and Tomas Knotek still on their protected list maximizing their European quota.

Knotek, entering his 18-year-old season, is the Mooseheads' highest-scoring returning player.

Voracek is likely to play in the NHL or Europe next season, may never return to Halifax, but the Moose will keep him on their protected list until his 2008-09 team is finalized.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO HALIFAX

Berry announces shock resignation

Axemen hoops coach steps down

By **MATTHEW WUEST**
Metro Halifax

After guiding the Acadia Axemen basketball team to one of its greatest seasons in three decades, Halifax's Les Berry resigned as head coach yesterday without explanation.

Acadia's athletic department issued a press release last night stating Berry had stepped down and that his

assistant, Sackville's Steve Baur, would be his interim replacement.

No further details were released. Berry and Acadia athletic director Brian Heaney did not return phone messages.

Berry joined the Axemen in 2005 and turned a 2-17 team into an 18-2 powerhouse. He helped them finish national runner-up to the Brock Badgers at the Final 8 in Ottawa, and engineered a stunning double-overtime upset of the five-time defending champion and host Car-

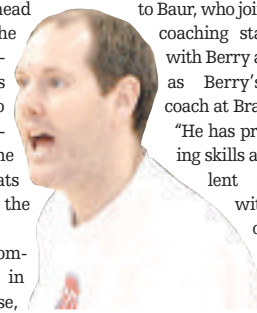
leton Ravens in the semifinals.

Berry is a former assistant coach with the Saint Mary's Huskies men's team and served as head coach of the King's Blue Devils women's squad. He also spent two seasons with the Brandon Bobcats before joining the Axemen.

Heaney commended Berry in the press release,

saying his "efforts and accomplishments are appreciated by supporters of the Axemen sports program." He also gave a vote of confidence to Baur, who joined Acadia's coaching staff in 2005 with Berry after serving as Berry's assistant coach at Brandon.

"He has proven coaching skills and an excellent relationship with many of our key players," Heaney said.



SCOREBOARD

MLB					CENTRAL DIVISION					Tampa Bay at Florida, 8:10					
AMERICAN LEAGUE					Chicago Cubs	48	28	.632	—	L.A. Angels at Washington, 8:10					
EAST DIVISION					St. Louis	44	33	.571	4½	Texas at Houston, 9:05					
	W	L	PCT	GB	Milwaukee	42	34	.553	6	Baltimore at Chicago Cubs, 9:05					
Boston	47	32	.595	—	Pittsburgh	36	40	.474	12	Colorado at Kansas City, 9:10					
Tampa Bay	44	31	.587	1	Houston	35	41	.461	13	Minnesota at San Diego, 11:05					
N.Y. Yankees	41	35	.539	4½	Cincinnati	35	42	.455	13½	Philadelphia at Oakland, 11:05					
Baltimore	38	36	.514	6½						Chicago Sox at L.A. Dodgers, 11:10					
Toronto	36	41	.468	10	WEST DIVISION					NATIONAL LEAGUE					
					Arizona	40	37	.519	—	Milwaukee at Atlanta, 8:10					
CENTRAL DIVISION					L.A. Dodgers	35	40	.467	4	CFL					
	W	L	PCT	GB	San Francisco	32	44	.421	7½	REGULAR SEASON					
Chicago Sox	41	34	.547	—	Colorado	32	45	.416	8	WEEK 1					
Minnesota	40	36	.526	1½	San Diego	32	45	.416	8	THURSDAY'S GAMES					
Detroit	36	39	.480	5						Montreal at Hamilton, 8					
Cleveland	35	41	.461	6½	LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS					B.C. at Calgary, 11					
Kansas City	34	43	.442	8	INTERLEAGUE					FRIDAY'S GAME					
					Arizona 2 Boston 1	SATURDAY'S GAME					Toronto at Winnipeg, 9				
WEST DIVISION					Kansas City 8 Colorado 4	SUNDAY'S GAME					Edmonton at Saskatchewan, 8:30				
	W	L	PCT	GB	L.A. Angels 3 Washington 2	EURO 2008					SEMIFINALS				
L.A. Angels	47	30	.610	—	Seattle 5 N.Y. Mets 2	TOMORROW'S GAME					Germany vs. Turkey, 3:45				
Oakland	41	34	.547	5	NATIONAL LEAGUE	THURSDAY'S GAME					Russia vs. Spain, 3:45				
Texas	39	38	.506	8	Arizona at Boston, 8:05	CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL					SUNDAY				
Seattle	27	49	.355	19½	N.Y. Yankees at Pittsburgh, 8:05	Semifinal winners, 3:45									
					St. Louis at Detroit, 8:05										
NATIONAL LEAGUE					San Francisco at Cleveland, 8:05										
	W	L	PCT	GB	Cincinnati at Toronto, 8:07										
Philadelphia	42	35	.545	—	Seattle at N.Y. Mets, 8:10										
Florida	40	35	.533	1											
N.Y. Mets	37	38	.493	4											
Atlanta	38	40	.487	4½											
Washington	30	48	.385	12½											

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For those keeping their cars

Here's how to lower gas costs

This week one of our Smart Cookies is handing back her leased vehicle and opting for public transit. With gas prices soaring, we can't help but think it's a smart decision. However, those of us who rely on cars to get around (this includes two Smart Cookies), have to be a bit more creative and efficient to not pay a small fortune for our fuel.

Below are a few of Smart Cookies' top tips on saving at the pump.

» Watch your idle time. Letting your engine idle for more than 30 seconds will burn more gas than restarting the engine, so



SMART COOKIES
www.smartcookies.com

turn the engine off if you expect a long wait.

» Resist the convenience of the drive-thru. We know it's tough to avoid when you've just hopped out of bed and are running for a coffee. But for those who regularly use a drive-thru, the best choice is to park the car and go in. Five to 20 minutes of fuel is consumed each time the drive-thru is used and for those who use one often, this is an unnecessary waste of fuel.

» Map out your errands. Do multiple errands on the same morning or afternoon and plan out your trip ahead of time. Consolidate drives to locations that are close to each other. If possible, park your car in one spot and walk when you get there.

» Take a break from driving. Carpool, take public transit, or telecommute one day per week instead of driving to work.

» Check the web for deals. Several gasoline price watching websites let you find the best deals in your area. *Gasbuddy.com* is one



Five to 20 minutes of fuel is consumed each time the drive-thru is used — this is an unnecessary waste of fuel.

of our favourites.

» Keep your tires properly inflated and aligned. Under-inflated tires cause fuel consumption to increase by six per cent.

» Change your oil. Clean oil reduces wear caused by friction between moving parts and removes harmful substances from the engine.

» Check and replace air filters regularly. Your car's air filter keeps impurities in the air from damaging internal engine components. Clogged filters can cause up to a 10 per cent increase in fuel consumption.

» Park in the first spot you find. If you wander all over the parking lot looking for

that really close parking space, you'll use more gas and waste more time.

Smart Cookies say don't be afraid to walk a ways if it comes to that — you'll be saving money and burning calories all at once!

We would like to dedicate this column to the loving memory of Duane — 2001 Pontiac Grand AM. Thanks for the good times.

If you have questions for the Smart Cookies, e-mail us at smartcookies@metronews.ca.

Time in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

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METRO NEWS SERVICE

Shower curtain chemicals

Report on vinyl warns of product contamination

As many as 100 harmful chemicals are released into the air from PVC shower curtains, according to a recent study.

Toxic chemical off-gassing may contribute to respiratory irritation, damage to the liver, central nervous and reproductive systems, according to the report, titled Volatile vinyl: The new shower curtain's chemical smell.

The report was released jointly by the U.S.-based Center for Health, Environment and Justice, Canada-based Environment Defence and Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA).

Pregnant women and children are particularly vulnerable, and heat or humidity can increase the release of chemicals, said the report.

Using PVC shower curtains purchased from U.S. retailers, researchers found numerous hazardous chemicals including volatile organic compounds (VOC), phthalate, organotins and metals. Seven of the chemicals are classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as hazardous air pollutants and several are considered human health concerns — but not regulated — under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

"Not only are vinyl products contaminating our indoor air, but they release toxic dioxins during manu-



A recent report found PVC shower curtains contained numerous hazardous chemicals that could damage reproductive systems.

facturing and incineration," Theresa McClenaghan, CELA executive director

has a window of opportunity to proactively regulate these chemicals with a major bill before Parliament to amend the federal Hazardous Products Act."

Environment Defence and CELA urged Ottawa to ban PVC in shower curtains and called on manufacturers and retailers to switch

to safer products, such as those made of cotton. They are also asking for warning labels on PVC curtains. One of the brands tested was also found in Canadian stores, and major department stores in Canada sell a variety of vinyl shower curtains, said

Environment Defence.

The American Chemistry Council, which represents chemical manufacturers, defends the safety of phthalate,

«Not only are vinyl products contaminating our indoor air, but they release toxic dioxins during manufacturing and incineration»

Theresa McClenaghan, CELA executive director

an additive that makes hard plastics flexible. In testimony before the U.S. Senate last May, the council said American regulatory agencies

"have reached conclusions supporting their safe use" and the "scientific evidence supports the continued use."

However, the council admitted that media attention has created public concern about those chemicals.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Etiquette tips for garage sale season

Summer. Time to slap on the Coppertone, throw on a cover-up, floppy hat, dark glasses, and get out and enjoy the sun. I am a great believer in sunscreen. I use SPF 597. By September, I often end up whiter than I started out.

This is also the season to participate in that great Canadian ritual, the street garage sale. In my neighbourhood, we call it the annual Trading of the Trash. Once a year, for three hours on a Saturday morning, we attempt to sell our friends and neighbours all the things we can't wait to get rid of ourselves.

Having had years of garage sale experience, I am happy to provide these handy tips to those trying it for the first time.



HINESIGHT
ANNE HINES

If the sale is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., the serious buyers will arrive at your place promptly at 6:45 a.m.

It is poor etiquette to view any item of your neighbour's and exclaim, "I can't believe you actually bought that!" particularly when you yourself are trying to hock the coconut bra you brought back from your last vacation.

Seek out garage sales being thrown by gay couples. The stuff they're throwing out will be nicer than the stuff you're keeping.

Impress on your children that the point of a street sale is to get rid of more stuff than they buy from other people. One year my daughter, Becky, came home dragging a giant pink semi-petrified stuffed horse that she couldn't believe someone sold to her for \$1. I am still not speaking to those neighbours.

A common mistake among newbie garage-salers is assuming that the designer feathered lamp you paid \$200 for in a store ought to fetch more than \$1.50 at a garage sale. To

find the proper price, follow these simple steps.

- 1.) Imagine that the item being priced was a birthday gift from an ex-boyfriend/girlfriend/employer/spouse.
 - 2.) Imagine you noticed a sticker on the bottom that said, "Free with purchase of Beefyman Beer."
 - 3.) Imagine the item also came with a card reading, "To Sue, with all my love."
 - 4.) Your name is not Sue. Subtract 25¢ (if you still can) and you have the proper garage sale price.
- Finally, feel free to buy for yourself anything and everything that catches your eye. You'll have something to sell next year.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

An invitation... **MS.** Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada

Welcome
MS Society of Canada, Atlantic Division
Dena Simon, President

My Life: 23 Years with MS
Guest speaker: Fred Steinhaus

New Updates in Multiple Sclerosis
Dr. Jock Murray

When: Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Where: The Westin Hotel
1181 Hollis Street, Halifax

Phone: 421-1000

Free parking at rear of hotel
Site is wheelchair accessible

Time: 6:30 – 7:45 pm

Contact: Terri Poirier - 497-0130

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entertainment



Halifax-born singer Melanie Doane, left, will perform at Casino Nova Scotia on Aug. 29. Tickets are \$25. Call 451-1221 or visit www.ticketatlantic.com

» news
In Brief

» **CRASH TOUR** Crash Parallel, above, which has received recent radio and video play for its song *World We Know*, is performing at Hell's Kitchen on July 16. The show is part of a cross-Canada tour. Tickets are \$12 and are at www.ticketpro.ca

» **ART WORKSHOP** The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and the Black Artists Association of Nova are offering a six-day Africentric workshop for young artists from Aug. 5 through 10. It will take place at the Dartmouth waterfront campus of the Nova Scotia Community Campus. For more information call 463-0583 or e-mail admin@banns.ca

» **CONCERT** Instrumental musician Jose Gonzalez performs at St. Matthew's United Church this Thursday night. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at www.ticketpro.ca.

METRO HALIFAX

Circus acts in training

Cirque Siana presents show this weekend

By DEAN LISK
Metro Halifax

A group of Halifax youth who made good on that dream of joining the circus will be centre ring this weekend.

"The circus arts are not something people get to see

too often," said Anaïs Guimond, owner of Atlantic Cirque.

"It's a different type of entertainment."

This weekend, her school's performance troupe, called Cirque Siana, will present an hour-and-a-half performances of contortionism, trapeze flying and balancing at Alderney Landing

Called *Premiere*, the show follows a little boy called Thomas exploring the world around him.

The show was performed for the first time to sold-out audiences last year, and the troupe is remounting it again this year, with additional acts — they include a fire eater and a seven-person aerial pyramid.

"The kids laugh at different parts and find things

funny at different times than the adults do," said Guimond.

"It is nice to see the kids come. The youngest performer in our show is 11.

"They see him doing this and the kids' think they can learn to do it too. They feel part of the show."

Guimond, who has trained with Cirque du Soleil in Montreal and Las Vegas, said she is excited to showcase what her school has been able to achieve in the six years it's been operating.

The Burnside school teaches more than 100 students every week.

"A lot of the students joined the school when they were 12, and now they drive to the school on their own," she said.

"Some of them are turning 19 this month and will be

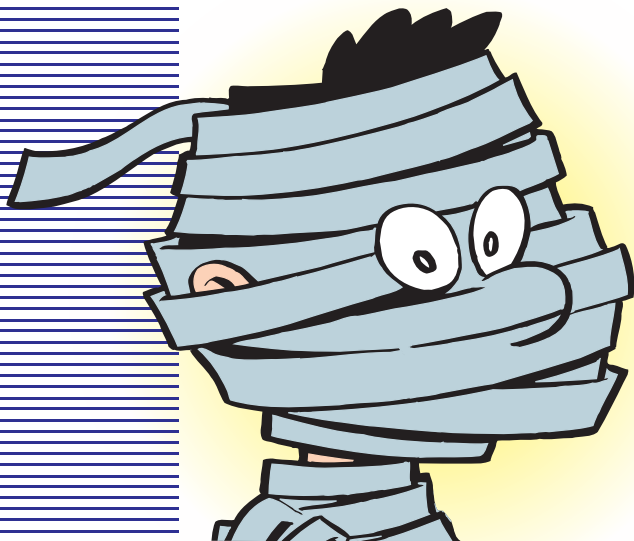


Students with Cirque Siana — Atlantic Cirque's performance troupe — appear at Alderney Landing this weekend.

able to come out with us after the show."

Guimond said awareness of the school and the types of classes it teaches has also in-

creased. Last year's sold-out run of Cirque du Soleil at the Halifax Metro Centre also helped create interest in Atlantic Cirque.



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Hip-hop producer Timbaland, right, tied the knot with publicist and mother of his child Monique Idlett in Aruba on Sunday.

E! NEWS ONLINE



Toronto's Little Foot Long Foot was born out of a failed Led Zeppelin tribute band.

The long and little of it

Little Foot Long Foot takes their own stand

By DEAN LISK
Metro Halifax

A failed attempt at being a classic rock tribute band was what convinced Toronto's Joan Smith and Isaac Klein to try going down the original-tunes route.

"It was pretty cheesy," said Smith, who was tasked with the job of pulling off Robert Plant's in a Led Zeppelin

cover group. "It was fun but we are not 50-year-olds yet ready to give up the dream or anything."

It was only after a couple of incarnations that Smith and Klein — who played the role of John Bonham in the tribute band — decided to go their own route with Little Foot Long Foot.

"We decided we didn't need a bassist or another guitarist," said Smith, who plays guitar and sings.

"We figured it was the most economical way, and it set us apart a little bit."

The guitar and drum duo — a reverse of the White Stripes format — recently released their debut

EP, *Just About Broke*, and are on an East Coast tour with three shows in Halifax.

The album has garnered positive reviews for its blues rock feel.

Smith said it's "infinitely better" playing their own material and they try not to listen to Zeppelin anymore.

It has changed the way she feels about herself as a musician.

They no longer have to mimic someone else's style, and can create their own.

"I feel a lot more honest on stage," Smith said.

"We do have one Zeppelin cover, which we pull out once a while.

"It's a slightly ob-

more information

» Little Foot Long Foot performs at Tribeca tomorrow. If you don't get a chance to see them then, they will be at The Seahorse on July 5 and at Gus' Pub on July 8.

scure song." The duo play at Tribeca tomorrow.

A classic on the road

By DEAN LISK
Metro Halifax

It's been a huge learning experience, but worth it, said Anna Springate-Floch. She and a vanload of actors — and a set, and props — have been travelling across Eastern Canada over the last month performing Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf*. A presentation of Jubilee Theatre, the production is performing at Neptune Theatre this weekend.

"It's a really interesting story, and that is what we base our theatre on for the most part," said Springate-Floch.

She and the rest of the cast are graduates — or soon to be grads — of Bishop's University. They formed the company last February.

Written in 1962, Albee's play is considered by many to be one of the best in American theatre.

It is set in the home of George and Martha following a fac-

ulty party. The couple has invited a young married couple to their home. During a drunken night, the bickering pair try to introduce their guests to some fun and games.

Martha and George were famously brought to the screen by Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.

In 2006, Nigel Bennett and Fiona Reid — the Bundt cake lady in 2002's *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* — performed in a Neptune production of the play.

more information

» What: Jubilee Theatre's *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf*

» Where: Neptune Theatre's Studio Sage

» When: Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.

» Tickets: \$10 and \$15. Call 429-7070.



wbhighdef.ca

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Pop star Janet Jackson, left, might feel "allergic to marriage," but she is ready to have a baby, says longtime boyfriend Jermaine Dupri.

SOURCE: PEOPLE.COM

Small town, big dream

Geography plays role for some Idol hopefuls

By SANDY CAETANO
for Metro Halifax

When you hail from a small town your family isn't only comprised of those related to you by blood, it's everyone from the local fishmonger to your high school teacher and your next door neighbour.

Having that tight-knit family support goes a long way for anyone trying to make something of themselves in the music business — especially in a singing competition like Canadian Idol.

"When you're from a small town like I am, your family is not just who lives in your house, it's the entire community," says Top 24 contestant Mitch MacDonald, 22, from



Mitch MacDonald, left, of Port Hood, N.S., and Mark Day, right, of Portugal Cove, N.L., are among Canadian Idol's Top 24.

Port Hood, N.S. "You are always careful to toe the line because you don't want to let anyone down."

As we've seen in previous seasons, like with past Canadian Idol winner Kalan Porter from Medicine Hat, Alta., having that much support is crucial and beneficial if you're the last one standing at the end of it all.

"They have my back," says MacDonald. "Because they



have my back, they are going to make sure everyone they know outside of town has my back too."

Mark Day, another Top 24 competitor, says coming from a small town like Portugal Cove, N.L., gives him the sense of family — something he carries with him wherever he goes.

"My small town experience has been one of great pleasure, as everyone knows everyone

and you are never alone, no matter how lonely you may feel," says 20-year-old Day. "This sense of family makes me able to put myself in the hands of the professionals that (are) here to help me."

The challenge lies in being able to use the fact that you're not from a big city to help you find your way in this singing contest.

"My small town upbringing has taught me that the people you meet, even if only for a second, could end up having the biggest role in your life," he says. "By leaving a good impression of myself with everyone I encounter, I will feel proud of myself ... and hopefully smile my way to a win!"

more online

» For more on Canadian Idol, go to metronews.ca/idol.

Credit for Coreys

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT'S DUE:

Three writers and producers are taking Corey Haim and Corey Feldman — aka "The Two Coreys" — to court, claiming they deserve credit for the reality show of the same name that brings the '80s has-beens back together, according to TMZ.com. The trio are asking for \$1 million US in compensation. The lesson of the day is that Hollywood is the only place where anyone would think of demanding credit for such a thing. It's like some clapped-out swinger fighting for royalties on herpes.

NOT JUST SURVIVING:

According to a story by Nikki Finke of L.A. Weekly, Mark Burnett is discussing selling his production company to IMG.

IMG's head of global operations was recently wit-



INTELLEVISION
RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

nessed defending Burnett at a Hollywood entertainment conference this week, and went on to say that Burnett was a "visionary genius." Considering how steeply almost all of Burnett's shows lose viewership after their first couple of seasons, IMG must have inside information that O.J. Simpson will be doing the next Celebrity Apprentice chained to Judge Lance Ito.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
6/24/08	31	31	31	ABC News (N)	ABC News	Inside	Chronicle	Wipeout (N)	Survived-Game			Primetime
	7	7	7	ASN	Twice in a Lifetime	Fortune	Jeopardy!	Celebrity Family Feud	America's Got Talent (N)			
	11	11	11	CBC Coronatn	Just-Gags	Mercer	22 Min	Quest for the West	National			The Hour
	2	2	2	CBC-F Providence (SC)	Des squeul	Tout	Beautés désespérées	Téléjournal	Fête			
	32	32	32	CBS News (N)	CBS News	Insider	Entertain	NCIS (HDTV)	48 Hours Mystery			Without
	69	69	69	CFTM TVA 18h	Sûr-salé	Rénovation	Kmh	Le Québec a des elles (N)	TVA 22h			
	6	6	6	CHIF	ET	In Plain Sight	Wipeout (N)	Shark	News (N)			
	9	9	9	CJCH	Jeopardy!	Canadian Idol		Without a Trace	News (N)			
	10	10	10	ELTV	(6) EastLink Television			Podium TV	EastLink Television			
	36	36	36	FOX Simpsons	King-Hill	Two Men	Two Men	Hell's Kitchen	Hell's Kitchen			Fox First
news	12	12	12	NBC News (N)	NBC News	Extra (N)	Celebrity Family Feud	America's Got Talent (N)				
	29	29	29	NW BBC News	Business	News (N)	Mansbridge	The Hour	National			Stories
	4	4	4	PBS-B News-Lehrer	News-Lehrer	Boston	One One	Nova (DVS)	Frontline/World (N)			Ind Lens
	35	35	35	PBS-D News-Lehrer	Business	Business	BBC News	Nova (DVS)	Science at War			Frontline
	68	68	68	TQS Simpson	Flash	Le golf	Le Retour de Batman (1992, Action) (SC)	Songe				
	23	23	23	66 BNN Stars	Business News	Market	Workopol	Lululess	Squeeze Play			Market
	18	18	18	CNN The Situation Room	Lou Dobbs Tonight	CNN Election Center	Larry King Live	Cooper				
	54	54	54	GOLF The Turn	PGA Tour	Quest	GolfCentr	Golf CVS Charity Classic - Final Round.	Big Break			
	52	52	52	RSE Prime Time Sports	UFC	Poker	EPL Retro	Thunder	Football Factories			Tonight
	55	55	55	SCOR WWE Raw	Unique Whips	Pass Time	Thunder	Low Life	Sup Bikes			
sports	45	45	45	SPD Off-Record	Sports	MLB Baseball Cincinnati	Reds at Toronto Blue Jays.					Sports
	53	53	53	TSN Life Derek	So Raven	Smart Guy	Suite Life	Sadie	Montana	Life Derek		School
	43	43	43	FAM 6teen	Johnny T	George	Scooby	6teen	Total Dra	Futurama		Blade
	44	44	44	TOON Fill	Backyard	Ni Hao	Night Grdn	Wiggle	Franklin	Little Bear		Couch
	26	26	26	TREE Drake	Genie	Malcolm	Prank Ptrl	Fries	Futurama	Prank Ptrl		Hunters
	27	27	27	YTV Cold Case Files	The First 48	Wipe	La Course	REGARDS	Presser	Guides		Tears
	16	16	16	A&E First Talk	News	Wilp						CSI: Miami
	70	70	70	APTN 106 & Park: Live From the Red Carpet								Celebrate
	50	50	50	BET Street Legal	Bazart	Videos	Journey Justin Hines	Freddie Mercury	Rufus			
	37	37	37	BRVO Help TV	The West Wing	Killer Next Door	Psychic	Evidence	Traders			
family	97	97	97	CLT Chevy Cross Canada Countdown	Comics	Air Farce	22 Min	Laughs	Corner	Simpsons	S. Park	Home Imp.
	25	25	25	COM Missing Link	The Investigators	Daily Planet	How-Made	How-Made	Smash Lab	Deadliest		Investi
	49	49	49	COURT What's That About?	Holmes	Buy Me	Guys	Design	Colin-Justin	Green		Green
	38	38	38	DISC Disasters	Mastermind	NCIS	Digging for the Truth	Finding the Fallen	NCIS			NCIS
	48	48	48	HIST Punk'd	Gone Wild	So You Think You Can Dance	You Can Dance	Punch	Hogan			
	46	46	46	MM Profile	mmmtop10.com	Uncovered	Listed	Story Of				
	17	17	17	MMM Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (2007, Adventure)				The Departed *** (2006)				
	201	201	201	MLN Don't Forget	Friends	Seinfeld	MLB Baseball Milwaukee Brewers at Atlanta Braves.	Odyssey	Surf Patrol	Adventure		
	43	43	43	OLN Friends	Seinfeld	MLB Baseball Milwaukee Brewers at Atlanta Braves.	Odyssey	Surf Patrol	Adventure			
	51	51	51	PEACH Friends	Seinfeld	MLB Baseball Milwaukee Brewers at Atlanta Braves.	Odyssey	Surf Patrol	Adventure			
cable variety	206	206	206	PIX (6:20) The Babe ** (1992)			(8:20) Top of the Food Chain	Psycho Beach Party (2000)				
	67	67	67	RDI RDI en direct (SC)	RDI direct	400 fois	Grands reportages	Téléjournal	RDI direct	Téléjournal		
	39	39	39	SHOW Trailer	Billable	ReGenesis	Blue Murder	Trailer	Kenny	CSI: NY		
	40	40	40	SLICE Three Takes	Women	Debt Part	Dead	Matchmak	Salon Diaries	Plastic		
	47	47	47	SPACE Relic Hunter	Stargate SG-1	Star Trek: Voyager	Blood Ties "5:55"	Battlestar				
	14	14	14	SPIKE CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Miami				
	98	98	98	STAR eTalk	Treatment	eTalk	Hollywood	Knocked Up	Tonight			
	21	21	21	TLC What Not to Wear	The New Detectives	ET	What	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld		
	34	34	34	TROP Tube	Vanity	That News	That News	ET	What	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	
	20	20	20	TVS Champion	J'mal FR2	Toute une histoire	Pékin express "Chengde"	Eyes	On the	Quantum Leap	Joz-H	
cable variety	28	28	28	W Mysterious Ways	Murder, She Wrote	Will-Grace	Friends	Maxed	Style	Kim	Style Jury	Naked
	22	22	22	W Shopping	House	Will-Grace	Friends	Maxed	Style	Kim	Style Jury	Naked
	251	251	251	WGN My Wife	Jim	Two Men	Fam. Guy	MLB Baseball Baltimore Orioles at Chicago Cubs.				

critics'corner

Robson Arms

What is it with television and the fixation on hunky doctors? In the new episode "Baby? What Baby?" Bobbi (Gabrielle Miller) meets Dr. Right (guest star Shaun Majumder). He's cute, charming and has money to burn. Perfect, right? Well, he would be if he liked kids — of which Bobbi happens to have one. Can the good doctor be turned into father material in time for the wedding in Bobbi's imagination? 9:30 PM on CJCH



Wipeout

Deja vu plotlines can be annoying if not done right. Fortunately, in the case of "5:55," the writers did it well. After having the same dream over and over, Vicki (Christina Cox) realizes it's not all in her head: She's actually living the same day more than once. With the realization come her attempts to change fate — which seems to have it in for Mike and Henry (Dylan Neal, Kyle Schmid). Gina Holden, Derek Peakman and Mike Antonakos co-star. 10 PM on SPACE

I Survived a Japanese Game Show

"Fear Factor" is "Meet the Press" compared to many of the game shows on Japanese television, where contestants perform stunts that run the gamut from goofy to downright wacky. In this new series, 10 Americans travel to Japan to compete on one such show, with a \$250,000 prize awaiting the big winner. Among other things, they must eat from the head of a person running on a treadmill and don chicken suits to smash giant eggs with their rears. 10 PM on ABC

Blood Ties

Deja vu plotlines can be annoying if not done right. Fortunately, in the case of "5:55," the writers did it well. After having the same dream over and over, Vicki (Christina Cox) realizes it's not all in her head: She's actually living the same day more than once. With the realization come her attempts to change fate — which seems to have it in for Mike and Henry (Dylan Neal, Kyle Schmid). Gina Holden, Derek Peakman and Mike Antonakos co-star. 10 PM on SPACE

funnyman

Edgy comic Carlin dies in Los Angeles



Carlin

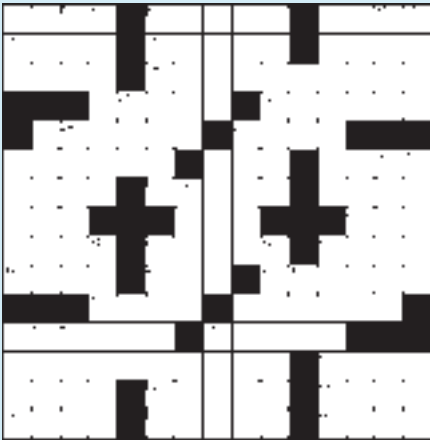
PEOPLE Comedian George Carlin, who had a history of heart and drug-dependency problems, died at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica about after being admitted earlier in the afternoon for chest pains, spokesman Jeff Abraham told Reuters.

Known for his edgy, provocative material, the bald, bearded Carlin achieved status as an anti-Establishment icon in the 1970s with stand-up bits full of drug references and a routine called Seven Words You Can Never Say On Television. A regulatory battle over a radio broadcast of the routine ultimately reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

REUTERS

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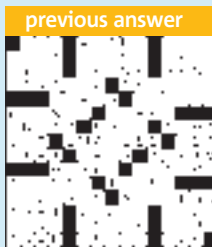
across»

- 1 Aussie rock group
- 5 Kebab bed
- 10 A law — itself
- 14 Survey finding
- 15 Oil-well capper Red — (2 wds.)
- 16 Move toward
- 17 Coyote's plaint
- 18 Phony respect
- 20 Stretch autos
- 22 Perfumes
- 23 Tradition
- 25 Bangkok native
- 26 Dracula portrayer
- 27 Membership dues
- 28 Fluid rock
- 32 Shah's land
- 33 Be informed of
- 35 Haughty type
- 36 Storage place
- 37 Canine warning
- 38 Sow's pen
- 39 Caught the bus
- 41 Primp
- 43 Wool producers
- 44 Mighty — oak
- 45 Brown of big bands
- 46 Buys by mail

down»

- 1 Long sigh
- 2 — Magnon man
- 3 Flower droplet
- 4 Visits (2 wds.)
- 5 Ingredient in soaps (2 wds.)
- 6 Common phrase
- 7 Pool lengths
- 8 Three-toed sloths
- 9 Air out
- 10 Reveals
- 11 Fraulein's refusal
- 12 Social asset
- 13 Mineral deposits
- 19 Electronics mfr.
- 21 — a date!
- 23 Knickknacks
- 24 Sudan neighbour
- 25 Pied-a —
- 26 Astrologer's scales
- 27 Passengers
- 29 Reply
- 30 Citizens
- 31 Deep fissure
- 34 White heron
- 40 Place under a spell
- 41 Saturn and Mercury
- 42 Tablet
- 43 Newsroom work
- 47 Dashed
- 49 Pith helmet
- 50 Mold source
- 51 Having similar properties
- 52 Meet head-on
- 53 Multiply
- 54 Food fish
- 56 A fifth of DX
- 58 Jungle crusher
- 59 Connections
- 60 Token amount

previous answer



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Previous Answer



		4	8		6		7	
3		2	5	1		4		
	7						5	2
6			7		3		4	9
	9			5			3	
5	4		9		2			1
4	8						2	
		6		7	8	9		5
	1		2		5	8		

instructions»

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time»

Under 13 minutes
13-17 minutes
17-21
21-25
More than 25

Genius
Scholar
Smart
Pretty good
Keep practising

previous answer

1	2	6	7	9	8	3	5	4
3	5	8	2	4	1	9	7	6
7	4	9	3	6	5	1	2	8
6	7	2	9	8	3	4	1	5
8	3	4	5	1	2	6	9	7
5	9	1	4	7	6	8	3	2
2	8	7	1	3	4	5	6	9
9	6	3	8	5	7	2	4	1
4	1	5	6	2	9	7	8	3

HOROSCOPE



ARIES | March 21-April 20

Diplomatically accept the way things are done. Maintenance slows your travels. A busy workday will be mirthful.



TAURUS | April 21-May 21

Abandonment issues will arise. Be disciplined around your comfort foods. Someone's feelings are hurt while rushing by.



GEMINI | May 22-June 21

Be alert to find a job option. Frenzy results from a change of rules. Stand your ground with a laughable person.



CANCER | June 22-July 22

Make do with what's already available. Some ignorant patter will disturb you. A man who lies must leave the scene.



LEO | July 23-Aug. 23

You can win despite bad odds. A person's game causes a move for freedom. Maintain your honour when you're socializing.



VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Get to the bottom of someone's intimidating actions. Moisture may cause problems. A feeling of insecurity develops after a rebuke.



LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23

Don't show surprise when you're asked for a date. Paradise is visited with a virtuous person. Buddy remembers a forgotten promise.



SCORPIO | Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Don't stifle your fantasy life. There's no time limit for having fun. Someone has a trick up his sleeve.



SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23-Dec. 21

A temper tantrum will be counter-productive. An angel of mercy breaks with tradition. Heed a woman's instructions.



CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20

Power plays keep your brain hopping. Help someone with their tedious tasks. Answer the call to fix a debt problem.



AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18

A steamy romantic event boosts your mood. A stranger provokes a hilarious episode. Listen to those who know more than you.



PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Forgive yourself for being thoughtless. A pessimist gets wildly ambitious. Save the best for last at night.

AVATAR VENUS

This Day IN HISTORY

June 24, 1880: First performance of our national anthem, O Canada, at the Congrès national des Canadiens-Français.

June 24, 1918: First air-mail service in Canada from Montreal to Toronto.

June 24, 1916: Mary Pickford becomes the first female film star to get million dollar contract.

June 24, 1983: Space Shuttle program: STS-7 Mission Sally Ride, first female American astronaut, returns to earth.

Metro News Services

Halifax weather



Afternoon

Thunderstorms.
24°



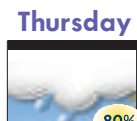
Tonight

Variable.
14°



Wednesday

Sunny.
24° / 14°



Thursday

Showers.
22° / 15°



Friday

Partly cloudy.
21° / 12°

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Temperature Normals
High: 20.2°
Low: 10.9°

Records
High: 31.7°/1976
Low: 5.4°/1984

Sunrise: 5:29 a.m.
Sunset: 9:03 p.m.
Moonrise: 12:01 a.m.
Moonset: 11:19 a.m.

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Celebrity Buzz



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Dion holds world's worst cover version

Music: Celine Dion is responsible for the world's worst cover version, a poll of music experts has decided. The star's rendition of the AC/DC track *You Shook Me All Night Long* was given the dubious honour in the Total Guitar magazine survey, BBC News Online reports.

Dion's cover was "sacrilege," editor Stephen Lawson said. The experts also judged the best cover versions, with Jimi Hendrix's performance of the Bob Dylan song *All Along The Watchtower* top of the list. A Sugababes and Girls Aloud version of *Walk This Way*, a huge hit for Aerosmith and Run DMC, came second in the list of worst covers.

Westlife's 1999 version of the ballad *More Than Words* by rock band Extreme was third in the list. Will Young was fourth with his cover of The Doors' *Light My Fire*, which reached number one in the U.K. top 40 charts in 2002, and The Mike Flowers Pops rounded off the top five with their cover of Oasis' *Wonderwall*.

In the list of best covers, The Beatles' rendition of *Twist and Shout*, first recorded by the Top Notes, was in second place, followed by the Guns N' Roses version of the Wings' song *Live and Let Die*. Nirvana's cover of *The Man Who Sold the World* by David Bowie, and Muse's *Feeling Good*, made famous by Nina Simone, also appeared in the Top 5.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

rumours

Depp's marriage not true: Publicist

NUPTIALS Johnny Depp's publicist has been forced to speak out to quash reports alleging the actor and his longtime partner Vanessa Paradis have married, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The actor was rumoured to be planning to wed Paradis at actress Sandra Bullock's Georgia home earlier this month, but Depp's representative shot down those claims, insisting they were false. The couple has been together for 10 years and have two children.

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NEWS
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Celebrity brief

SUPPORT Kate Moss is said to be "beside herself" following Rhys Ifans' split from Sienna Miller, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The supermodel, who has had a rocky friendship with the actress, has been rallying around Ifans since the breakup earlier this month, and is doing everything she can to cheer him up.

Meanwhile, Miller is getting support from some unlikely sources, including her ex-boyfriend Jude Law.

METRO NEWS
SERVICES



Lopez throws a fit while shopping?

PEOPLE: Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez reportedly pulled diva-esque behaviour while shopping at the Catherine Malandrino boutique in Manhasset, N.Y., near where she lives with her husband, Marc Anthony, PageSix.com reports.



"She demanded the store be shut down for her to shop alone, but they said, 'Absolutely not,'" said a source. "Then one of her eight-person entourage, including two bodyguards with their guns showing, was yelling at the clerk that Jennifer gets a 50 per cent discount."

Lopez's rep did not return a call for comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

people

REALITY TV The producers of *Celebrity Apprentice*, real-estate mogul Donald Trump's reality TV competition, have asked Heather Mills to be a contestant on the show's next season, PageSix.com reports an insider as saying. "Donald (Trump) really likes her, so he was into the idea," said the source.

METRO
NEWS SERVICES



Smith doesn't think he's sexy

ATTRACTIVE Will Smith doesn't think he is sexy, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor, who is married to Jada Pinkett-Smith, can't understand why women like him, because he has never believed he is attractive.

"I've never seen

myself as sexy," Smith said. "I've been 6-feet-2 since I was 12, and as a kid my ears stuck out and my neck wasn't big enough for my head." Smith has always been insecure about his looks and claims he has never been very successful with the opposite sex.

METRO NEWS
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GODDESS OF Summer



Celebrity Buzz**Spears fears she'll die at 27**

LIFE Britney Spears fears she won't live to see her 28th birthday, according to the author of a shocking new expose about the troubled pop star.

Biographer and journalist Ian Halperin spent 18 months studying the singer as an undercover paparazzo, getting close to the star and her inner circle, femalefirst.co.uk reports. And now he's writing about his findings in a book which he hopes to have on

shelves by Christmas.

Amid all the claims of drug abuse, bipolar problems and suicidal tendencies, Halperin states Spears told him personally she fears she will die at 27.

The biographer, who ironically penned a book about Kurt Cobain — who lost his life at 27, tells *Life & Style*

magazine, "She told me she feared she'd die at age 27 (her current age), just like other music stars, like Janis Joplin and Kurt Cobain."

Spears turns 28 on Dec. 2.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

**Ritchie ventures into wisky**

BUSINESS Madonna's husband Guy Ritchie is planning to take on a new business venture by creating his own whisky, imdb.com reports. The moviemaker is set on making the best and



most expensive whisky ever, rumoured to sell for up to six figures. A source tells Britain's *The Sun*, "He plans to stuff the current top prices with his brand. He reckons there are plenty of rich businessmen and rock stars who would pay six figures for the world's best whisky."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

**Paltrow may be pregnant**

RUMOURS Gwyneth Paltrow has sparked rumours she is pregnant after she was spotted with a much more shapely figure, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 35-year-old star also revealed earlier this month she would consider having another baby because she loves being a mum.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holmes sends Kidman surprise gift

BABY BASKET Actress Katie Holmes is making nice with mom-to-be Nicole Kidman by giving her baby gifts, starmagazine.com reports. Holmes shipped a gift basket to Kidman, the ex-wife of her husband Tom Cruise. The basket has been stuffed with toys, onesies, a blanket and more from Neiman



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tautou struggles with celeb status

PEOPLE Actress Audrey Tautou was sickened by the way her life changed after becoming a celebrity, imdb.com reports. The *Da Vinci Code* star shot to international stardom after her roles in French cult film *Amelie* and the big-screen adaptation of Dan Brown's hit book, but has struggled with losing her anonymity. She tells Britain's *Daily Express*, "I remember when I became very famous after *Amelie* ... A guy came over and gave me a kiss on the cheek. I was shocked. Then he went back to his table and everybody was applauding him like he had won a bet. I was traumatized. I had become a bet!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

**people**

WEDDING Ellen DeGeneres has set a date for her wedding to Portia de Rossi, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The couple — who have been together since December 2004 — revealed their intention to marry when same sex ceremonies were legalized in California last month. DeGeneres refused to reveal when the wedding will take place, but did tell fans the ceremony will be broadcast on her talk show.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

**alarm bells**

LIGHTING UP Shia LaBeouf set off smoke alarms in a U.S. museum when he lit a cigarette in the bathroom, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 21-year-old actor received a stern warning from officials at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, in Washington D.C., after attempting to smoke in the bathroom while filming his new movie *Transformers 2*. When he realized he had set off the alarm, LaBeouf tried to flush the cigarette down the toilet, according to the *National Enquirer* magazine.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

**Barnes unhappy with sex symbol status**

HEART-THROB The *Chronicles Of Narnia*: Prince Caspian star Ben Barnes is embarrassed about his new heart-throb status — insisting he is not comfortable

able when people view him as a sex symbol, imdb.com reports. The 26-year-old shot to fame with the title role in the latest adaptation of C.S. Lewis' novels. Barnes insists that although he is grateful for the career boost, he is worried about becoming famous for his looks and not his acting. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



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